



Wrestling takes on No. 4,
No. 5 teams this weekend

The Mavs go to the mat
against Central Oklahoma
and Nebraska-Kearney.

SPORTS
[PAGE 5]

gateway

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA SINCE 1913

Where are you going to be
for the Super Bowl?

The Gateway takes a look at
what students are planning
for Saturday's big game.

ENTERTAINMENT
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VOLUME 08 | ISSUE 31

FRIDAY | JANUARY 30, 2009

Commission begins meetings to review student fee allocations

CAITRIN SHIRAZI
CONTRIBUTOR

Starting last Monday, a group of students and faculty members began meeting to determine how a portion of UNO student fees are spent.

Each student is charged a University Program and Facilities Fee, or UPFF fee. It is composed of a flat \$85 fee plus \$15.10 per credit hour for a maximum of 12 hours.

The Student Activities Budget Commission, which had its first meeting Monday in the Milo Bail Student Center Council Room, is in charge of appropriating a portion of the UPFF called Fund A.

"This year I think the commission is made up of great individuals. They really know what's going on," said Student Government Executive Treasurer Shari Tangeman, who chairs the commission. "They're inquisitive and ask a lot of questions. This is students' money, and they should know where it's going."

Fund A student fees support Student Government, its agencies, Maverick Productions and The Gateway. Each student contributes \$14.40 per semester to support these programs. In the 2008-09 school year, \$456,000 was collected by Fund A.

The remainder of UPFF funds is called Fund B. It supports entities such as Milo Bail Student Center, men's and women's athletics, Campus Recreation, MavCard Services, Student Health Services and campus music groups.

The money that isn't used in a fiscal year is put into a reserve account. The commission has used this money in the past to buy big-ticket items for the campus, such as \$10,000 for the climbing wall in the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building.

"We save the money because we know we're the first to get cut," said Meredith Bacon, a political science professor and faculty member of the commission.

Maverick Productions and The Gateway also have reserve accounts for funds not used in the previous fiscal year.

Fund B is directly overseen by Wade Robinson, associate

SEE **SABC**: PAGE 2

SULFURIC ACID SPILL CAUSES SCARE

JAMES CARROLL

SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

A UNO undergraduate student picked up a 10-pound bottle of sulfuric acid late Monday night as she prepared to dilute the acid for classroom laboratory experiments.

It was then that the bottom of the bottle broke off, perhaps due to an impurity in the container, and spilled the acid all over the counter where the student was working, said James Carroll, chair of the Department of Chemistry.

"She almost immediately realized the severity of the problem," Carroll said.

The student rushed across the hall to the classroom where Carroll was teaching a general chemistry laboratory section. She then clearly explained the problem, and Carroll took immediate action.

Sulfuric acid, H₂SO₄, is an extremely corrosive, colorless, odorless liquid commonly used in lead-acid car batteries among many other industrial applications.

After assessing the situation, Carroll took the student to an emergency shower in the laboratory and held her under the cold water while using sodium bicarbonate – baking soda – to neutralize the acid.

Campus Security arrived quickly, Carroll said, and a student in his class called emergency services. Minutes later, Omaha Fire and Rescue responded to the Durham Science Center.

After the student was safely in the hands of emergency medical technicians, Carroll said he began to clean up the acid spill out of concern that the sulfuric acid and the water from the emergency shower would find a hole in the floor and trickle downstairs.

SEE **SPILL**: PAGE 4

Suicide claims life of UNO student

TAYLOR MULLER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Jacob Christensen was attending UNO, pursuing his dream of becoming a K-12 science teacher. However, those dreams vanished in the cold, early hours of Jan. 23.

Police officers responded to reports of an incapacitated male at the Crossroads Mall parking garage about 1:30 a.m. last Friday, according to a police report. Officers found Christensen, dead, in the backseat of his Cadillac Deville – an apparent suicide.

Christensen, 23, was on

Regents scholarship at UNO after having attended Full Sail University in Orlando, Fla., and Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

At Full Sail, Christensen earned an associate of science in computer animation, and while attending Iowa Western, he was on the honor roll. Christensen then followed his love of computer science back to Omaha, the city of his birth.

Christensen is survived by his parents Herb and Brenda Christensen, his sister Christina Hilario and nieces Genevieve and Emma, all of Elk Horn, Iowa.

He is also survived by his twin brothers Dan and Andrew of Council Bluffs, Iowa; brother Jason and wife Kristen, their children Bowen, Kaden and Devin of Salt Lake City; brother Geoff and wife Brenda, children Taylor and Ashlea, and sister Kim all of Naples, Fla.; and his cat Linus.

A memorial celebration will be held at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church on what would have been his 24th birthday, Jan. 31 at 2 p.m., with internment at the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery in Kimballton, Iowa.



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Senate OK's basketball bus trip after extensive debate

JUDY RYDBERG
COPY & LINE EDITOR

The UNO Student Senate had its "best and most thorough senate debate in a long time," adviser Barb Treadway said after the meeting on Jan. 22 in the Milo Bail Student Center's Dodge Room.

For more than an hour, senators debated on whether to spend \$760 for a charter bus to send students to Maryville, Mo., to watch the Maverick basketball game against Northwest Missouri State on Feb. 4.

Because of the popularity of the free bus rides to UNO hockey games, Student Senate was considering sending up to 55 students to the Missouri basketball game for free.

"The whole point of this is to get students involved and more interested in their school," said former Sen. Charlie Dukes, who wrote the resolution. "It'll be a fun road trip with your friends, and people who go will bring the excitement back with them."

However, several senators said they were reluctant to spend such a large amount of money on an out-of-state road trip.

In response, Sen. Nathan Kirkland, chairman of the Budget Committee, said he was concerned about some senators' willingness to spend thousands of dollars on Student Government conferences and retreats while being unwilling to spend money on student activities such as the basketball trip.

"What about the students?" Kirkland asked the other senators. "We're supposed to do things for students, not ourselves."

Dissenting members said that they believed very few students would be willing to stay out that late on a school night, for a basketball game.

"The reason we're here is that we're going to school - all this is extra stuff," said Chief Administrative Officer Matt Nelson.

However, junior class senator Michael Crabb disagreed.

"You want to have that college campus feel; this is what college students do," Crabb

said. "Home games here are excellent. All 12 people in the stands enjoy it, and an away game against our biggest rival would be worth it."

The hard-fought debate ended with the 22-2 passage of the resolution.

The bus is scheduled to leave at 5 p.m. Feb. 4, for the two-hour trip. Students will be back around midnight Thursday.

The bus ride is free, but a \$10 food charge is required to reserve a spot on the bus. For more information, call Student Government's offices at 554-2620.

"If we get 40 out of 55 seats filled, it'll be considered a success and we'll do it again," Dukes said.

While the basketball trip debate dominated the Student Senate meeting, it wasn't the only issue discussed.

Since June 2008, students have reported having trouble logging on to Lotus Notes. Lanyce Keel, acting executive director of Information Technology Services, gave a presentation on what is being done to solve the problem.

Keel said a student survey would help the campus advisory committee narrow the potential solutions down to three. The three options will then be evaluated based on requirements, risks, cost and feasibility.

Possible solutions include having students forward their e-mail to another address, or allowing students to transfer to an outsourced e-mail vendor, such as Hotmail or Gmail.

"The instability of Lotus Notes has impacted students," Keel told the senate. "We'll see if we can come up with a solution we can all live with."

In addition to the campus e-mail problem, the senate also addressed upcoming, smaller issues.

Crabb said he'd like to have a way to compile teacher reviews so students can see them, reopen the 24-hour computer lab in the student center and look into getting bigger-name food vendors in the student center and at Scott Village.

"A lot of schools have vendors, you know - something that tastes good," Crabb said.

Before the meeting, Student
SEE SENATE: PAGE 4

FROM SABC: PAGE 1

vice chancellor for student affairs, with approval from Chancellor John Christensen. All pending decisions for this fund must be approved by the Board of Regents before money is dispersed.

"Based on last year, a lot of good proposals were heard," said Dave Ogden, an associate professor of communication and faculty member of the commission. "Hopefully everyone gets their money."



SHARI TANGEMAN

In regards to the upcoming year, Ogden said he is hopeful the recession doesn't hurt or interfere with UNO student organizations getting the funding they need.

At Monday's meeting, the commission went over the distinctions between Fund A and Fund B and reviewed its schedule for the next several weeks. Each Monday until March 2, the commission will meet at 3 p.m. in the Milo Bail Student Center Council Room.

Parliamentary procedure using Robert's Rules of Order was also briefly discussed at the meetings.

The next Student Activities Budget Commission meeting will be Feb. 2 and will include hearings on Student Government's operational budget as well as the Maverick Connection newspaper program. The meetings are open to the public.

CRIME LOG

COMPILED BY
SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

Wednesday, Jan. 21

11:30 a.m. Staff member reported the theft of university property from Kayser Hall. The incident occurred on Tuesday, Jan. 20, between 1:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 23

9 a.m. Campus Security was notified that an individual was found dead in a vehicle at the Crossroads Mall parking garage. According to Omaha police, the incident is being regarded as a suicide.

10 a.m. Campus Security was notified by Crossroads Security, an independent private contractor, of a truck fire in the Crossroads Mall parking garage.

Saturday, Jan. 24

11:52 p.m. While on patrol, Campus Security witnessed suspicious activity in Lot Q. Further investigation disclosed two minor students in possession of alcohol. The alcohol was confiscated, and the students were referred for disciplinary action.

2:53 a.m. While on patrol, Campus Security witnessed suspicious activity in Lot J. Further investigation disclosed on student and one visitor, both minors, in possession of alcohol. The alcohol was confiscated, and the student was referred for disciplinary action.

Monday, Jan. 26

1:55 a.m. While on patrol of University Village, Campus Security investigated a noise complaint. Further investigation disclosed alcohol violations. Omaha police responded. One student and one visitor were found to be minors in possession of alcohol. Both were cited for minor in possession. The student was referred for disciplinary action.

FOR THE RECORD

In the Jan. 27 issue of The Gateway, the headline "Mavs drop to sixth in the CCHA following tough weekend against Miami" incorrectly stated the Maverick hockey team is in sixth place in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association. UNO is currently in a three-way tie for fourth place with Michigan and Ohio State. The Gateway apologizes for any confusion caused by the error.

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Women's basketball team overcomes drought with win against Fort Hays State

MICHELLE BISHOP
PHOTO EDITOR

UNO chipped away at an early seven-point lead in the second half to slip past Fort Hays State 69-60 Wednesday night at the Sapp Fieldhouse.

The Mavs led by 14 points late in the first half but failed to score another point in the half.

Fort Hays State's Naomi Bancroft, who led the Tigers with 33 points, came up big for the Tigers, hitting a pair of free throws and connecting on four 3-pointers to spark a 14-0 run to knot the score 27-all heading into halftime.

An 11-4 run early in the second gave the Tigers a 38-31 lead, but UNO's sharpshooters came up huge for the Mavs as UNO sunk 6-of-12 from 3-point range to help snap a three-game losing streak. The Mavs hit only 1-of-11 3-point attempts in the first half.

"We played really hard," head coach Patty Patton Shearer said. "We got into a difficult situation and were able to really battle out of it. I'm really proud of our effort and intensity where we created a win tonight."



Top: UNO's Cayla Hargrove lines up for a free throw during Wednesday's game against Fort Hays State. Hargrove led the Mavs with 22 points as UNO defeated the Tigers 69-60. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)
Right: UNO's Alyssa Green and Amanda Brodsack (No. 43) double team Fort Hays State's Naomi Bancroft during Wednesday's game. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

The win improved UNO to 8-9 and 5-7 in the MIAA and boosted the Mavs past the Tigers for sixth in the league. Earlier this season the Tigers handed UNO an 87-70 loss in Hays, Kan.

Senior Cayla Hargrove led the Mavs with 22 points, including 17 in the second half, while senior Amanda Brodsack added 19 and a team-high nine rebounds.

"Cayla is great scorer," Patton Shearer said. "The last couple of games she's been in a great offensive rhythm and we hope that it continues."

Senior Latoya Wright and junior Alyssa Green each added 7 points, while senior Mary Brown chipped in six points. Including Hargrove's 22, UNO's bench contributed 37 points.

UNO hosts non-conference foe Rockhurst University (9-11, 3-7 Great Lakes Valley Conference) on Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

Tough home loss for men's basketball after series of wins

MITCH WECKER
STAFF WRITER

Riding big home wins against Missouri Southern and Washburn, the UNO Maverick Men's Basketball team hit a speed bump with a tough loss Wednesday night to Fort Hays State with cold shooting in the second half.

The men shot an average of 40 percent from the field in their first half of play.

The second half had more bounce for the Mavs, with a tough 29.6 shot percentage, bringing their game field goal percentage to 35 percent. The final score was 80-61 Fort Hays State.

Senior Michael Jenkins led the team once again with 16 points, outscoring last week's Maverick leading scorer sophomore Mitch Albers.

Albers, who last week was awarded the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association Basketball Athlete of the Week, followed this week with only 12 points—barely a third of his last game's 30.

He did contribute a big offensive rebound and put back basket to get the Mavs within five points early in the second half.

Unfortunately, the Mavs could



UNO's Tyler Albers fights for the rebound with Fort Hays State's Tim Peintner (left) and Corbin Kuntzsch (right) during Wednesday's game. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

not stop the hot 3-point shooting team in Fort Hays. With Fort Hays shooting more than 50 percent from 3-point land in second half and finishing the game shooting 44.6 percent overall, there wasn't much the Mavs could do. Fort Hays advanced to 13-5 overall,

6-5 in the MIAA.

The next game for the men is on the road against Northwest Missouri State on Feb. 4 in Maryville, Mo.

They will go into the game with a 13-6 overall record and a 7-5 record in conference play.

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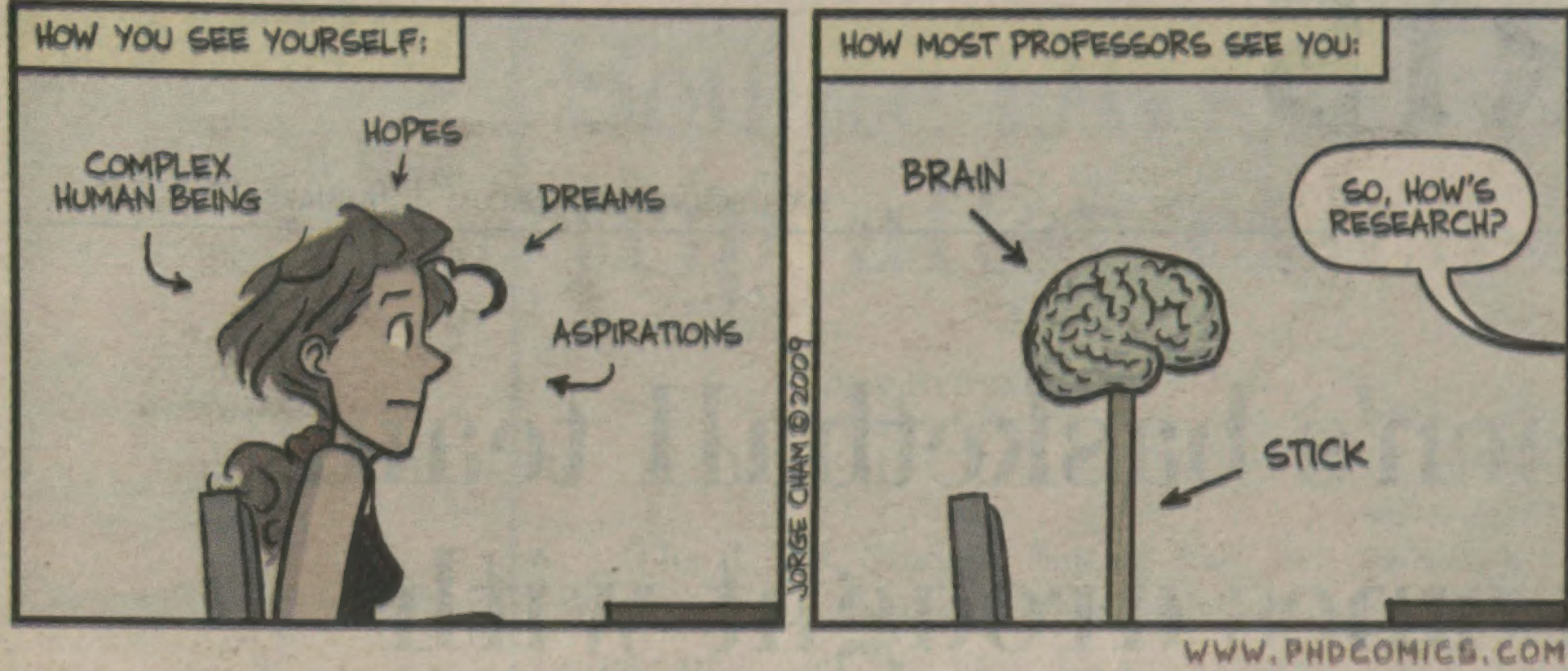
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FROM **SENATE:** PAGE 2

Government had a final rules review session, in which anyone could come and help fix errors and improve Student Government By-Laws. However, Nelson said nobody came to the meeting.

"We met today, but no one showed up, so I had to review the rules by myself," Nelson said.

The next Student Senate meeting is Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. in the Milo Bail Student Center Dodge Room.

FROM **ACID:** PAGE 1

Carroll's efforts to clean up the spill caused some initial tension with the firefighters, he said, because they didn't want him to make the situation worse. Once a hazardous materials team arrived, however, the cleanup process got finished quickly.

The damage to the chemical stockroom where the student was working was minimal, Carroll said. While there was a fair amount of corrosive damage, the counter where the spill occurred is in a fume hood designed to withstand harsh chemical spills and the floor is made of concrete.

The student was taken the Nebraska Medical Center, and she was released around 11 p.m. Monday, Carroll said. She has since returned to her work in the department.

"I went to the hospital after my class

finished and I was there when she was released," Carroll said. "I've been told that she's in pretty good shape."

KETV Channel 7 News reported the student's name as Sandy Lemke, but the Omaha Fire and Rescue could not be reached to confirm the name. University spokeswoman Wendy Townley said she did not know the student's name.

While smaller accidents are somewhat common, Carroll said, accidents of this scale are unusual. Nevertheless, student workers receive additional safety training to prepare them for incidents like Monday's acid spill.

"An accident of this magnitude is very freaky," Carroll said. "It happens when you're present once or twice in your career."

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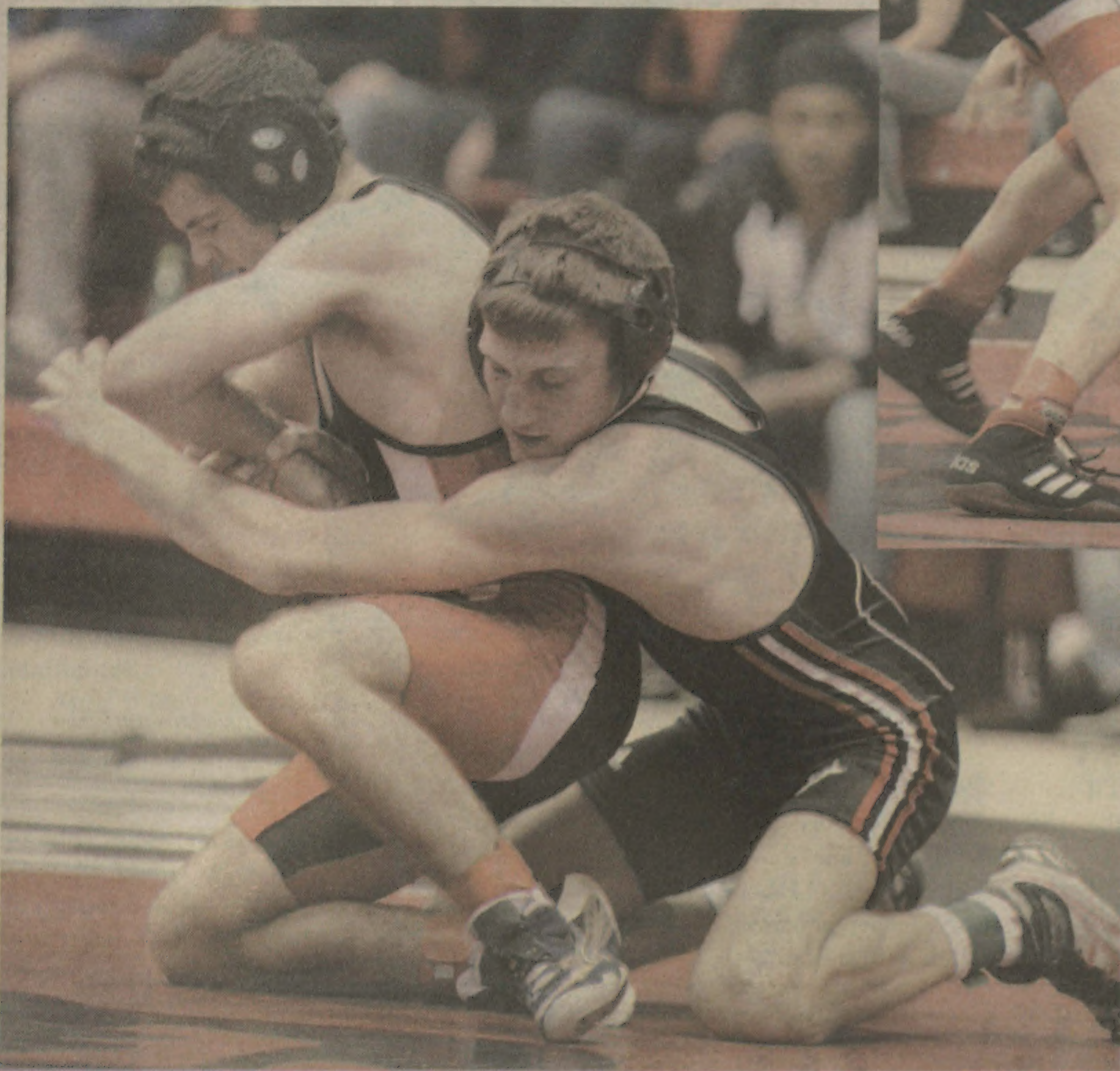
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UNO wrestlers



still undefeated, winning big

Top: UNO's Cody Garcia (right) battles St. Cloud State's Josh Williams during Thursday's dual. Garcia pinned Williams at the 5:36 mark of the 133 pound match. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

Left: St. Cloud State's Pat LeVasseur works to get away from UNO's Matt Rein during Thursday's dual. Rein scored a 16-1 technical fall over LeVasseur in the 125 pound match. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

MARCUS HANSEN
SPORTS EDITOR

The top-ranked University of Nebraska at Omaha wrestling team captured nine-of-10 matches against formerly 11th ranked Saint Cloud State (37-6) Jan. 22 and defeated top-ranked Division III Augsburg College.

The win against St. Cloud was the team's second highest point total of the year and its fifth victory of the season.

Sophomore Matt Rein, at 125 pounds, won his match scoring a 16-1 technical fall over St. Cloud's Pat LeVasseur. However, the crowd erupted when junior Cody Garcia

pinned No. 8 Josh Williams after 5:36.

UNO was halfway done dominating SCSU with a commanding 20-0 lead after redshirt freshman Esai Dominguez, at 149, won on a technical fall with the score of 19-4 over Jacob Horn.

Senior Todd Meneely, barely broke a sweat beating Chad Kubasch, at 157 pounds, with 13 takedowns.

The night wasn't all wins, though. Former top-ranked sophomore Aaron Denson was pinned by eighth-ranked SCSU's Tad Merritt at 5:31. This handed the Mavs their first and only loss on the

match.

The Mavs played Augsburg the next night, winning seven of 10 matches, improving to 6-0 in duals this season.

Dominguez succeeded in defeating the top-ranked wrestler in Division III, Augsburg's Willy Holst. Dominguez dominated the third period with two takedowns to win the match 4-2.

UNO heavyweight Tony Lewis took down Augsburg's Andy Witzel only 31 seconds into the match.

Witzel fought back, but was unable to hold down Lewis who received a point for

the escape, giving him the win 3-2.

The night was capped with seven takedowns by Meneely over Augsburg's Jason Adams. Meneely entered the night 14-0. He left with a record of 15-0, winning with a score of 14-5.

The Mavs aren't going anywhere soon, and their ranking refuse to budge as well. However, they face Oklahoma Central today at 7 p.m. at the Lee Sapp Fieldhouse.

More importantly, in-state rival and fourth-ranked UNK comes to town tomorrow at 7 p.m. to challenge the still No. 1 ranked Mavs.

UNO third in preseason poll

MARCUS HANSEN
SPORTS EDITOR

With less than a month left until the UNO baseball team gears into play, the February temperatures won't slow the Mavericks down, especially being picked by the conference coaches to place third in their new conference the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.

The team received 78 points in the pre-season poll on Wednesday, to finish behind the University of Central Missouri with 99 points and Emporia State University with 92 points.

With several of its opponents in warmer locales, UNO's inability to practice outside year-round is a hurdle to overcome,

coach Bob Herold said.

"It's impossible to get fully ready to play an outdoor sport by practicing inside," Herold said.

Despite being less than ideal for training, Herold still said Nebraska was his No. 1 recruiting pipeline.

"I stay in very good contact with all the high school baseball coaches because many times when an athlete goes to a Division I school, they don't like it and don't know where to go," Herold said. "When the athlete asks their high school coach for advice, many times the athlete is sent my way."

UNO's baseball team consists of 27 players; 16 are from Nebraska.

The shift in temperature takes its toll on the players' muscles as the schedule progresses. This puts the Mavs at a big disadvantage as the season progresses, Herold said.

"We play 75 percent of our games in 45 degree or colder weather, but then when we go to the regional games, it's 75 degrees or hotter," Herold said. "It's very hard on our pitchers, especially who play ball all spring in cold weather, and then [are] put in a Southern regional."

Opening day for the Mavs is on Feb. 13 at Colorado Christian University in Lakewood, Colo.

Editor in chief Taylor Muller contributed to this report.



Super Bowl provides students with party options

TODD HANSEN
CONTRIBUTOR

For many students, this weekend's Super Bowl is a great excuse to party with friends. Some might say the game has even turned into a national holiday because so many take part in its festivities.

Many bars and restaurants around the metro will be packed with people watching Sunday's championship game. The Attic Bar and Grill, located at 33rd and Harney streets, is hosting a "Super Sexy Bowl Party." Cover charge is \$10, but those wearing a jersey to the event will get in for \$5. The Attic also features pre-game specials starting at 1 p.m. that will last until kick-off at 5:20 p.m.

Other bars are also trying to get in on the Super Bowl action. Legends Bar and Grill is bringing Channel 94.1 DJs Big Party and Jeff Degan in to broadcast their show live from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Pipeline Tavern is offering \$1 burgers and \$5.75 beer pitchers, while Muldoon's Pub runs its happy hour specials all day, including \$5 domestic pitchers and \$9 import pitchers.

While some students are hanging out at the bars, others will be attending house parties.

"Me and my wife are last minute people," senior Craig Haverty said. "But we are definitely going to a house party."

Sophomore Chelsea Badders agrees, saying that she would prefer going to a house party than a crowded bar or restaurant. "I plan on eating and drinking with friends," Badders said.

Local stores and businesses are running specials that cater to those hosting parties. Practically every grocery store in town is running ads and coupons for easy Super Bowl entrees and snacks.

In recent years, though, it's become apparent to many that the Super Bowl parties are more about fun than football.

"It's not about the game," sophomore Ashlee Millius said. "But I will still watch."

But, for those who do enjoy the game, it's a chance to see two of the best teams in the National Football League, the Arizona Cardinals and the Pittsburgh Steelers, to duke it out for a chance at winning the Vince Lombardi Trophy and make their mark on football history.

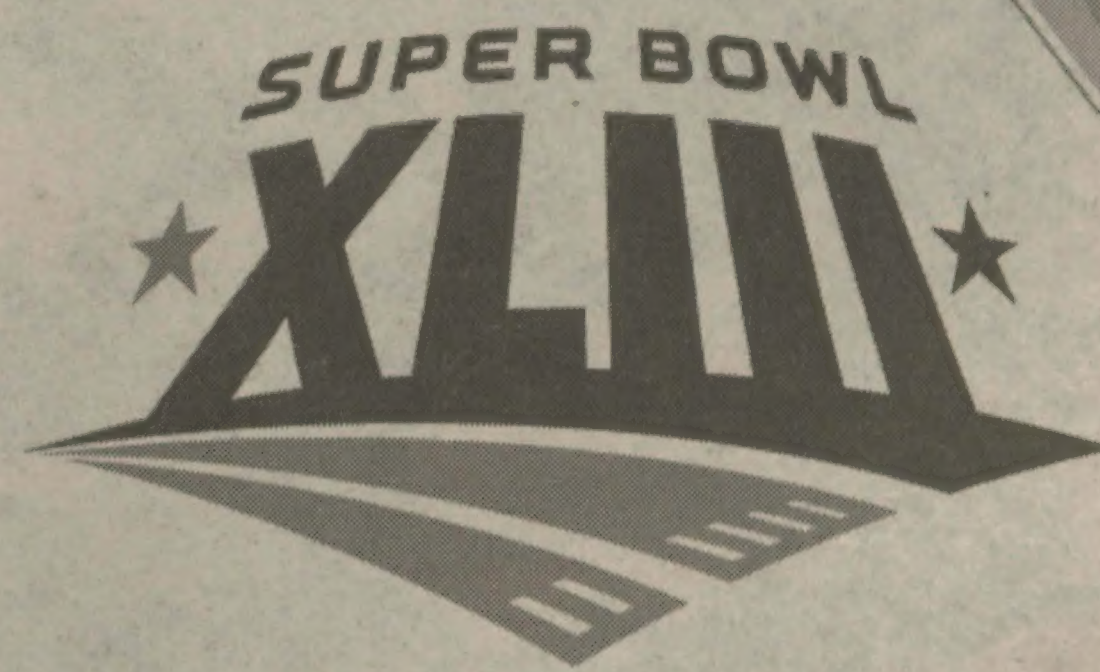
"I've liked Arizona since Denny Green was their coach and am a fan of Larry Fitzgerald," senior Derek Austin said. "I'll also root for them because they are the underdog."

Other fans, whose teams did not make it to the Super Bowl, find hope in the two teams that are left.

A lot of my buddies are Steelers fans," Haverty said. "So I'll probably root for the

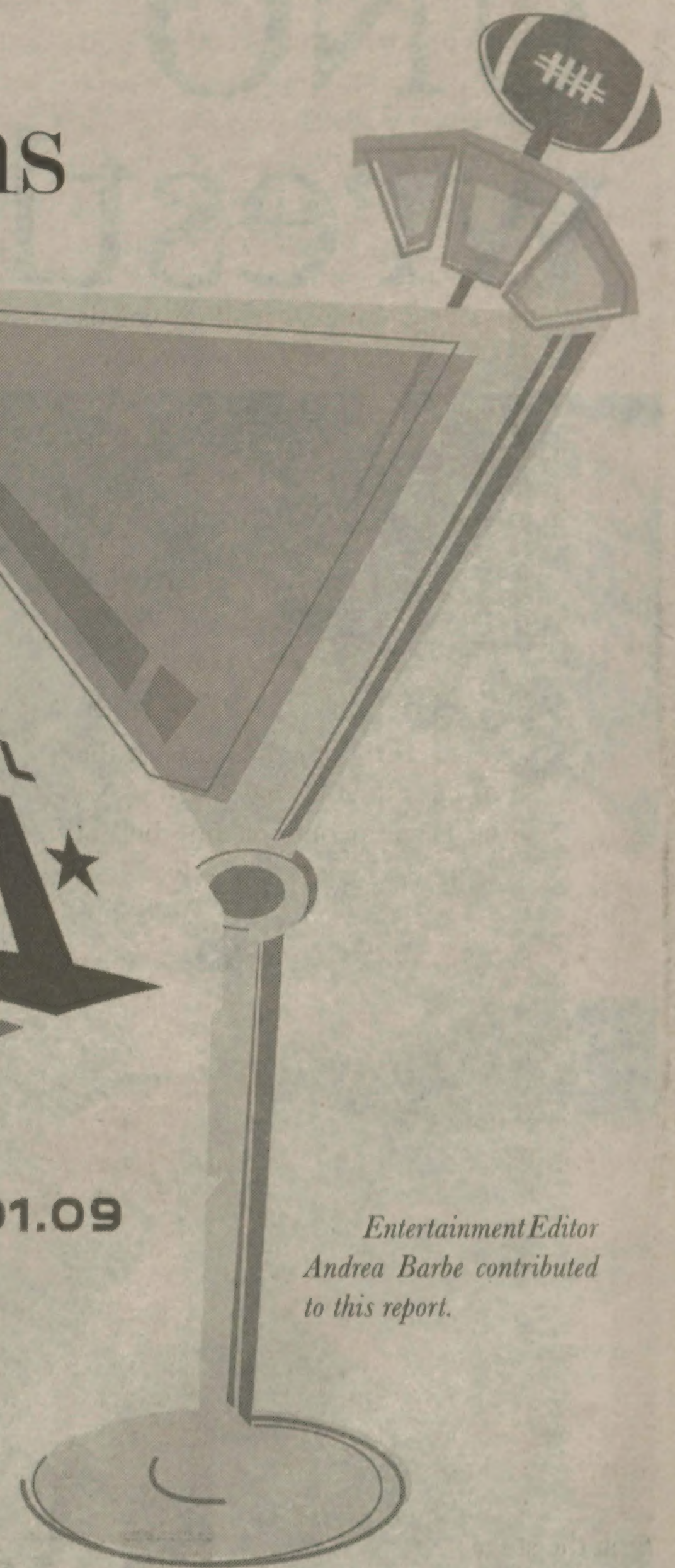
Cardinals to bust their chops."

The Super Bowl is the biggest game of the year and the most popular sport in the United States. Advertisers spend millions of dollars for a



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30 second commercial and the highly anticipated half-time show. All this makes Super Bowl XLIII one game to catch, whether you're at home with friends or at the bar.



Entertainment Editor
Andrea Barbe contributed
to this report.

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Blithe Spirit, classic script prove hauntingly good at Playhouse theater

RYAN WILCH
CONTRIBUTOR

The cliché that the past can come back to haunt you takes on a new meaning in the Omaha Community Playhouse's production of Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit."

The production is based on the saying "the past can come back to haunt you," with the dead brought back to life in this 1940s comedy.

Protagonist Charles Condomine's life is significantly altered after a séance summons the spirit of his ex-wife Elvira. His current wife Ruth isn't overjoyed with the apparition's arrival and is determined to oust the pestering ghost from their lives.

Originally opening in 1941, "Blithe Spirit" contains themes on marriage, infidelity and jealousy. In this production, Director Judith Hart has the cast members speaking their lines in an affluent 1930s vernacular that, at times, is difficult to follow. It doesn't help that the sound throughout the production was uneven. While all the actors and actresses gave solid performances, such dialog-heavy material requires that the delivery be easily audible. Unfortunately, there were numerous occasions where the audience found themselves asking one another what had been spoken, particularly during the scenes featuring Dr. Bradman and his wife. Mrs. Bradman, played by Lucia Milone Williams, was especially soft-spoken and hard to hear.

Sound issues aside, every member of the cast portrayed their character well.

Jim Palmer did a good job as the skittish Charles Condomine, mixing a nice blend of confidence and neurosis. Laura Leininger's Ruth, comes across as domineering, yet likable at the same time. There is very little question who is in control of the Condomine household.

Although there are some highlights during the first act - like Kim Jubenville's energetic portrayal of the eccentric Madam Arcati, the medium who channels Elvira back from the dead and Mary Kathryn Nagle's hyperactive servant Ruth - the play doesn't reach its comedic potential until the second half. This can be accredited to the tremendous performance of Julie Crowell's Elvira. Crowell charms the audience during the first part of the second act by playing Elvira's free-spirited demeanor. The comedic timing between Palmer, Leininger and Crowell in the first scene of the second act is remarkable and sets the pace for the remainder of the play. Later on, Elvira's charms wear off due to her spoiled nature and not to Crowell's execution.

Bringing a ghost to life on stage is a difficult task. The director and the cast members do a good job of making the audience believe that only Charles can see Elvira. The scene where Charles is trying to convince Ruth that his deceased wife is present was excellent, primarily because of Crowell's jubilant mocking of Ruth.

Visually, the design team did a decent job of fitting the actors in costumes of the 1930s. The set itself looked fairly authentic, SEE BLITHE: PAGE 7

Slipknot headlines Mid-America night of metal, rock

COMMENTARY BY
MIKE BELL
CONTRIBUTOR

"It feels good to be back home!" said Slipknot front man and Des Moines native Corey Taylor to the 7,393 screaming fans in the packed Mid-America Center Sunday night.

The crowd moshed through both Trivium's sets of Metallica-inspired solos and Coheed and Cambria's wailing vocals and melodic guitar work, but showed no signs of tiring.

Kicking off the show, metal group Trivium took the stage to the adulation of everyone in attendance. With my press pass stuck to my jacket, I knelt down next to the speakers and prepared to take the first pictures of the night.

It was a big mistake being that close to the subwoofers. The first power chord knocked me over as the air pulsed with the machine gun-like double bass drums of Travis Smith. Trivium puts on one hell of a show by fully throwing themselves into their music.

After three songs, I was escorted back out to wait for the next band to come on, which was fine by me. My ears could take only a little more unrelenting punishment.

After a short break, I was ready to take pictures of rockers Coheed and Cambria. I knew next to nothing about these guys, but my nervousness had disappeared with the first band's set. I noticed many people exiting as Coheed took the stage.

The lights dimmed, a clean guitar was plucked at in almost a Spanish style solo. I couldn't hear much else. The lights came up and the lead singer Claudio Sanchez, who I can only describe as the child of Canadian guitarist Geddy Lee and "The Addams Family's" Cousin It, stood in front of an enormous banner that read "God will not save you" in big, bold letters. Coheed's virtuoso on guitar, Travis Stever, was hands-down amazing.

Another three songs passed and I retired back to the stands. It was after Coheed left the stage I was told my press pass was not authorized for Slipknot's performance. I sat down to enjoy the main event.

"If they're smart, they won't play too much new stuff," I heard muttered from behind me.

The auditorium filled with buzzing and screeching as white strobes began to creep underneath the blood red curtain now beginning to rise. The song "Sic" crashed into my ears like a fist to the jaw. The crowd began rolling like a wave, back and forth, with five or six small circles of people continuously shoving each other. It was like this on each and every song.

I recognized more than I thought I would, not having listened to Slipknot since their second album, "Iowa." I was told they only played two newer songs, "Psychosocial" and "Dead Memories."

The music itself was entertaining enough, but Slipknot's onstage antics are certainly

a show in itself. The two percussionists, Chris Fehn and Shawn Crahan, had their drum sets raised 10 feet into the air by mechanical risers and then rotated. At one point, they even bucked back and forth like mechanical bulls, leaving the drummers sometimes hanging on and dangling off the

side mid-song.

Unfortunately, the night was rife with injuries as well. One man suffered cardiac arrest shortly after the show concluded. Council Bluffs native Cory Nickels collapsed outside in the concourse area and was picked up by paramedics. He was pronounced dead at the hospital. It was later released that Nickels had a history of heart problems that may have resulted in his death.

While I did not see this happen, I did see at least a dozen people stumble into the infirmary semi-conscious and leave limping towards the parking lot. For Slipknot, this concert was like their homecoming. The long road that started in Des Moines will continue there next week. This year, however, celebrates the 10th anniversary of their first self-titled debut record with many more to come.



"It feels
good to
be back
home!"

- COREY TAYLOR -

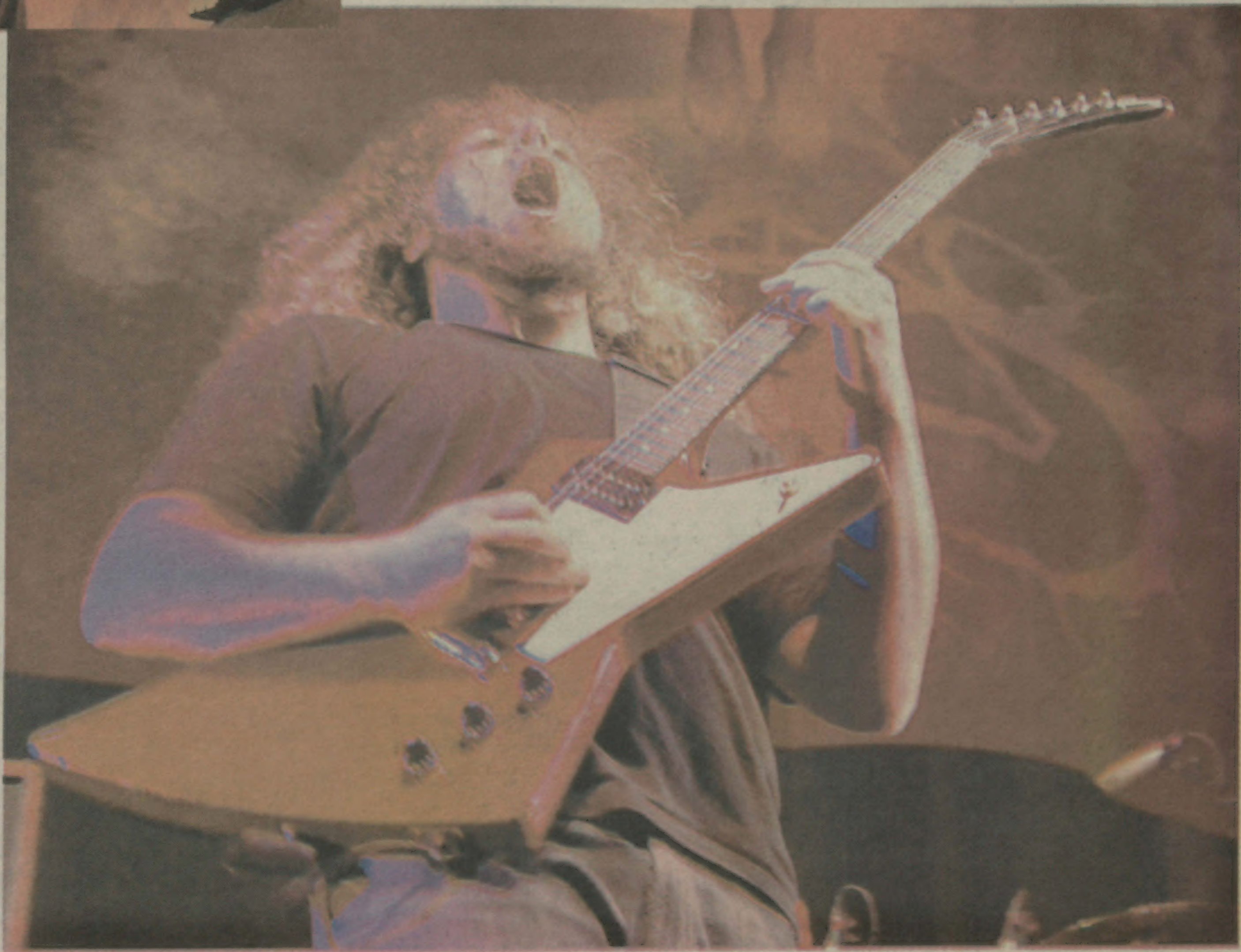


Right: Trivium's Matthew Kiichi Heafy sings during Sunday's show at the Mid-America Center. (MIKE BELL/ THE GATEWAY)

Top: Trivium guitarist Corey Beaulieu rocks out during Sunday's show at the Mid-America Center. (MIKE BELL/ THE GATEWAY)

Left: Trivium guitarist Corey Beaulieu performs during Sunday's show at the Mid-America Center. (MIKE BELL/ THE GATEWAY)

Below: Coheed and Cambria lead singer/guitarist, Claudio Sanchez gets into a song during Sunday's show at the Mid-America Center. (MIKE BELL/ THE GATEWAY)



FROM **BLITHE**: PAGE 6

too. Despite the hard-to-hear dialog, which causes some of the comedic lines to fall flat, the play is a solid production that is worth seeing.

"Blithe Spirit" will be haunting the Omaha Community Playhouse until Feb. 15. For show times and ticket availability, go to omahaplayhouse.com or call 553-4890.

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VALERIE LOSEKE/THE GATEWAY

ALUMNA GIVES TALK ON AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBAL REPRESENTATION AT OBAMA'S INAUGURATION

Alumna Amy McClean discusses attending the inauguration of President Obama in Washington, D.C., earlier this month at a forum in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service Collaborating Commons on Monday.

McClean, who earned a bachelor's in political science and a master's in public administration from UNO, is a cultural

resource specialist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She is also an enrolled tribal member of the Cabazon nation.

About 20 people attended McClean's presentation, which focused on American Indian Tribal inauguration activities and a brunch where President Obama discussed his administration's American Indian policies. McClean represented her tribe at those events.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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